



# Ohio Rail Development Commission

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULY 8, 2004

### SAFETY

- Ohio Quiet Zone Legislation has not yet been signed by the Governor and is still under legal review.
- ORDC's Safety Division is working with the railroads to put together the corridor budgets.
- Monies carried forward from delayed safety projects are being applied to the NS B-Line corridor. Sixty-two crossings from Vermillion thru Findlay to the Indiana state line will be addressed. This will complete the corridor.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The Lake Erie Regional Rail, Cleveland Hub Study is completed in draft form and distributed to our partners for review and comment. A follow-up meeting was held in Columbus on July 1. The next steps, such as outreach and the environmental process, are being planned. ODOT has committed to this process and ORDC staff is working out the details and time lines with them.
- Our most serious problem is our lack of rehabilitation funds. We are accepting project applications now for about an \$800,000.00 budget this year. With needs at around \$20,000,000.00 we are seriously under funded. Railroads are going to be asking for help with the rehabilitation of shortlines, mainlines, yards and spur capacity which will be difficult if not impossible to meet.
- I meet with Director Proctor (ODOT), Director Johnson (OBM), and Jim Samuel of the Governor's Office to explore options and various funding proposals. The Governor's Office has requested follow-up information. We will submit that information by the week of June 28th.
- It should be noted that CSX is planning to reduce their system miles from 23,000 miles to 17,000 miles. We are already working with Indiana and others on preservation issues that we believe will affect freight and passenger rail corridors. We have found CSX to be very cooperative and interested in the state's concerns.

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- We are formulating the agenda for our retreat this fall Lynda will be contacting each commissioner to solicit agenda items.
- We are pushing hard on the bond refunding, I am concerned that the bond market won't hold so it is very important that we hit all our target deadlines much slippage and we might miss the interest window.

## **OUTREACH**

- The "Jobs Through Rail Program" is coming together very well. We should be able to have a full briefing for you at the retreat.
- ORDC staff has distributed various guest editorials and my annual state of the railroads in Ohio message. Gordon Proctor and I did an interview with the Ohio News Network.
- The Ohio Rail Tourism brochure is being printed and will be distributed to Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Automobile Club (AAA), Travel Information Centers, Senior Centers throughout the state and at the 2004 Ohio State Fair.